Welcome to spring, Estuary Partners!

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

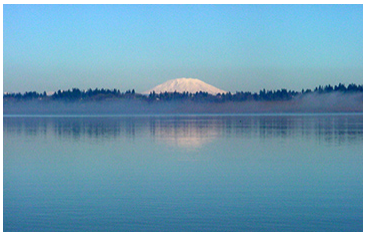
Columbia CONNECTIONS

Aerial Photos Reveal Restoration Impacts

In February, we took an aerial survey of some of our recently completed habitat restoration projects with **Lighthawk**, a non-profit dedicated to accelerating conservation success by offering flights to on-the-ground conservation groups. Volunteer Lighthawk pilot Jane Nicolai took three of our staff on an hour long flight covering lower Columbia floodplain between Vancouver and Woodland, WA. We took hundreds of photos, like the shot of La Center (below), which shows part of our recently completed restoration project along the East Fork Lewis. Visible in the photo are two levee breach locations and an internal channel that was re-meandered.

Aerial photography helps us see how restoration actions impact a site, assess watershed scale processes, track geomorphological changes, evaluate

Upcoming Events



Experience Vancouver Lake: Open House

Wednesday, April 27th
5-7pm
Water Resources Education Center
4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver
FREE
Short presentation at 5:30, followed by a raffle drawing!
RSVP here

Homebrew Battle for the Columbia River

Saturday, April 30th
1-5pm
Columbia River Brewing
1728 NE 40th Ave, Portland

potential project sites, and offer views of completed projects to our funders. Flying in the winter allowed us to examine the sites under desirable conditions of low vegetation and relatively low water levels. Many thanks to Lighthawk for this opportunity. We encourage other conservation groups to enlist Lighthawk for their services. See more of our incredible photos on **Facebook**.

New Habitat Targets Set for the Lower Columbia River

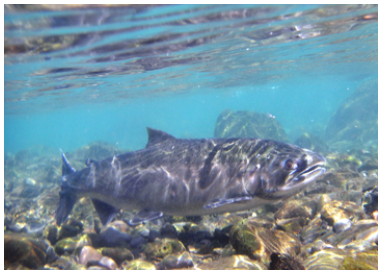
The Estuary Partnership has new long term voluntary habitat restoration targets for the lower Columbia River to create sufficient habitat to support species recovery and protection. The lower Columbia has lost 114,050 acres (around 50%) of historic native habitats since the late 1800's to agriculture, industry, and urban development. With this loss of habitat, we have seen increases in the number of ESA-listed species every year.

Our new habitat targets focus on maintaining our remaining historic native habitats and restoring priority habitats to protect common species using the lower river. These targets include:

1. No net loss of native habitats from 2009,
2. Recover 30% of historic coverage of priority native habitats by 2030,
3. Recover 40% of historic coverage of priority native habitats by 2050.

$15 entry donation
21 and older
Homebrewers will offer free tastes, and you vote for your favorite!
RSVP here

Columbie River Estuary Conference
May 24-26
Liberty Theater
1203 Commercial St, Astoria
$125 for 3 days / $70 for 1 day
Register Now



To meet these targets, we will not only need to protect all remaining native habitats, we will also need to restore an average of 3,306 acres every five years, an increase in our restoration rate from the past decade.

These new targets will be integrated into resource management programs, land use planning and regulations, and species recovery programs, in addition to identifying species-specific conservation targets for imperiled species.

Spring Volunteering Wraps Up

This spring, our dedicated volunteers caringly restored native habitats at four locations: La Center Bottoms, Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Meldrum Bar Park, and Benson State Park. We had 161 energetic volunteers, made up of boy scouts, church groups, families, college students, and other folks join us at six planting events. These hard working volunteers planted 2,420 native plants and removed 3 truckloads of ivy. Big thanks to these volunteers for their time and energy spent to help make lower Columbia habitats healthier. Keep your eyes on news from the Estuary Partnership for our summertime volunteer events and community paddles.

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